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NPIC/TSSG/RED-1770-69
19 August 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Director, NPIC

THROUGH : Chief, Technical Services & Support Group

SUBJECT : Answers to Questions on Reduced Current Contract Load
in RED

1. on 19 March 1969, TSSG forwarded a quickly-composed list of projects which have been completed and/or cancelled during the period 30 June 1968 to 1 March 1969. This list requires some additional background information and some brief words of explanation.

2. Between January 1968 and 1969, a concerted effort was made within RED to wrap-up--either complete or cancel--a number of FY-64, 65 and 66 projects which had been in an indeterminate status for an extended period of time because of either technical or contractual difficulties. Examples are the two Step & Repeat printers under contract to [] (one for GIMRADA), at a combined cost of [] contract Chip Printer at []. It was desirable to do this to clear the books and to reduce the OL/PD administrative burden along with our own administrative time spent on nonproductive projects.

Other large items such as: the Integrated Information System [], AP-3 [], Data Block Reader ([], ATR Studies [] and Human Factors Studies [] were the result of normal contract completions; while the [] against the High Precision Stereo Comparator was for the close-out of Phase I--the design phase--prior to the current fabrication program.

The rest of the items are either small projects which were completed or minor changes-in-scope to other ongoing contracts.

3. Therefore, there has been a major reduction in the current monetary value of ongoing contracts because

- a. Many old projects have been cancelled or completed. []
- b. Many large contracts have been brought to normal completion. []

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c. The impact of two successive austere R&D budgets is beginning to become apparent.

d. The impact of a short-term, quick-payoff, project-oriented program is beginning to be felt.

4. There currently are follow-on programs in many of these areas; other areas have been dropped from existence because the requirements have changed; case in point, the data block readers which are tied to certain acquisition systems. The AP-3 is another example. There doesn't, at this time, appear to be a valid requirement for the development of an advanced stereo plotter (AP-4)--although such a device certainly is technically feasible.

5. It would be erroneous to assume that RED has had a significant decrease in its workload. Many of the projects cancelled were requiring only administrative time; other projects have been replaced by follow-on programs, as you are well aware. However, the largest single factor is the transition from a fast pay-off, project-oriented program to a longer range, research-oriented program. This will require vast expenditures of our technical personnel's man-hours to establish the technical foundation required to respond to the requirements generated by highly sophisticated advanced acquisition systems and in order to make significant inroads towards the automation of the Center in the foreseeable future. The workload, rather than decrease, will no doubt increase.



Chief, Research & Engineering Division, TSSG

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